



Saturday, 26 March 2022

St Andrew's Primary School / St Andrew The Apostle Parish, Marayong

Ideas for Taking Action

(Specific links to these projects on next pages)

Providing food & toiletries though the Diocesan Food Drive Roster

- Sign your deanery, parish, school or organisation up, run a food & toiletries drive, and donate the goods to Jesuit Refugee Service and House of Welcome, who are feeding over 1000 people weekly.

Joining the Diocesan Journey Steering Group or Working Groups

- Diocesan Food Drive Roster WG
- Community Conversation WG
- Work Opportunities for Refugees and PSA WG

Advocacy for Refugees & People Seeking Protection

- By receiving community organising training from the Sydney Alliance
- By writing to / calling your local Federal MP or Senator
- By inviting your local Federal MP or Senator to a conversation with your deanery, parish, school or organisation

Shifting attitudes and raising awareness

- In homilies during Sunday Mass
- By organising a local "Community Conversation" with Refugees and People Seeking Protection in your deanery, parish, school or organisation

Offering welcome and friendship to Refugees & People Seeking Protection

- By forming a group to join the Parish Group Mentorship program to help settle a Refugee or Refugee Family into Australia
- By hosting a "Welcome Dinner"

Remembering Refugees & People Seeking Protection in liturgy and prayer

Links

Providing food & toiletries through the Diocesan Food Drive Roster

- Find more information at parracatholic.org/diocesanfooddrive

Joining the Diocesan Journey Steering Group or Working Groups

- Contact any Steering Group member if you are interested

Advocacy for Refugees & People Seeking Protection

- Register for the next Sydney Alliance Foundations training, co-hosted by the Diocese of Parramatta, 6-7 April: bit.ly/sydalliance
- Join a Vinnies Workshop to learn how to take action with your MPs. Where possible, you will be connected with others in your electorate who have expressed interest in taking action. Please email Social.Justice@vinnies.org.au for more information and registration. Next workshop options:
 - 29 March, 12-1pm
 - 30 March, 6:30-7:30pm
 - 31 March, 10:30-11:30am
- If you want to **contact or invite your local Federal MP or Senator**, you can find the contact details at catholicoutlook.info/mps-senators
- Join the Parramatta Diocese *Peace, Justice and Ecology* mailing list to stay up to date with social justice activities in the diocese: eepurl.com/g_L0pv

Offering welcome and friendship to Refugees & People Seeking Protection

- CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains is working with **Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA)** to train and support parish groups to host Refugees in settling into Australia. Parish mentor groups are matched with a Refugee or Refugee family to welcome into their community.
 - Contact: Celia Vagg, celia.vagg@ccss.org.au, 0433 628 438
- Share a meal with newcomers to Australia through the **Welcome Dinner Project**: welcomedinnerproject.org

Remembering Refugees & People Seeking Protection in liturgy and prayer

- The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's **Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO)** publishes resources for World Day for Migrants and Refugees, each year. This year, the World Day for Migrants and Refugees will be celebrated on 25 September 2022. Learn more at acmro.catholic.org.au

- The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference's ***Social Justice Statement*** for 2015–16 focussed on the theme "For Those Who've Come Across the Seas: Justice for Refugees and Asylum Seekers". You can download the statement and resources for prayer and liturgy at bit.ly/sjs2015-16
- The ***Catholic Alliance for People Seeking Asylum (CAPSA)*** provides information and resources to organise a "Circle of Silence": capsa.org.au/circles-silence

Shifting attitudes and raising awareness

- The "[Diocesan Journey... Walking with Refugees](#)" Steering Group can assist you to organise a "Community Conversation" in your deanery, parish or organisation (online or face-to-face):
 - Find out more at catholicoutlook.info/doptabletalks
 - Contact: Zoe Grant, zoe.grant@jrs.org.au, 0293 563 888
- Jesuit Refugee Service run a special school program "Refugee Voices":
 - Find out more at aus.jrs.net/en/schools-engagement
 - Contact: Zoe Grant, zoe.grant@jrs.org.au
- Watch or organise a screening of the ***award-winning video series "My Journey, Our Journey"***, which you can find on The Well: thewell.org.au/series/#content6

Supporting organisations who work with Refugees & People Seeking Protection (by donations, volunteers etc.)

Some of the active organisations are:

- ***House of Welcome***: houseofwelcome.org.au
- ***Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Australia***: jrs.org.au
- ***St Vincent de Paul Society***: socialjustice.vinnies.org.au
- ***CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains***: ccss.org.au
- ***Community Migrant Resource Centre***: cmrc.com.au
- ***Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group***: bmrsg.org.au